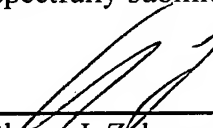


REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969 ,  
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.  
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1  
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Direct Dial: 703-812-5311  
Facsimile: 703-243-6410  
Attorney Docket No.:MERCK-3165

Date: May 17, 2006

AJZ:aap

IK:\Merck\3000 - 3999\3165\preliminary amendment.doc